

Virginia State Police



Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division Newsletter

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Virginia Criminal Information Services (VCIN) Changes to VCIN

This year has been a busy year for Virginia Criminal Information Services (VCIN). The new 2017 VCIN manual is almost complete and will soon be available to all VCIN users via the LEEP website. The VCIN staff will begin testing the new configurator that has been designed by Computer Projects of Illinois, Inc. (CPI) in order to assist the staff in entering all VCIN users, VCIN terminals, terminal locations, and agency contact information. The new configurator will also provide agency terminal coordinators (TAC) with the ability to check on the certification/re-certification dates of their staff. VCIN staff members are excited about migrating over to a new software program called Peak Performance, and finally saying goodbye to MAPPER.

One of the biggest changes coming to VCIN is the separation from VITA and Verizon's COVANet. Due to a rise in cost from Verizon, the Department of State Police (VSP) decided that it could provide the same service to the law enforcement community while reducing the actual cost. VSP Network Operations Center (NOC) has been tasked with taking calls from agencies, issuing/assigning tickets to the VCIN staff and the Information & Communication Technologies Division.

Our Information Technologies section has taken over the responsibilities that VITA handled for VCIN Juniper box and other issues; while VSP Communications section handles Verizon's former responsibilities. With all changes there are growing pains, but this too shall pass. The main questions we are receiving are calls concerning Billing. VSP is still in the process of developing the procedures of how we will be handling this issue. Until then, no charges will be incurred by local agencies.

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VCIN**NLETS State Wide Training**

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The Virginia Criminal Information Network hosted four NLETS training sessions this past spring. Training sessions were taught by NLETS Representative, Ms. Teri Fournier-Harsin, VCIN Coordinators, First Sergeant K. Scott Downs and Sergeant Brian R. Best. Each session lasted three hours, with a total of 221 law enforcement personal in attendance. During each session various topics were discussed including NLETS message keys, Driver License photo sharing, Standardization of the Criminal History Rap Sheet and Targeted Interstate Photo sharing. The feedback on the NLETS training was positive, and we appreciate all who attended.

Protective Orders

Clear Protective Order (CPO): This action will change the status of the Protective Order File (POF) record from active to inactive in NCIC and VCIN will purge the record from the VCIN files. NCIC retains an inactive file for the remainder of the year plus 5 years at which time the record will be retired. During the time that the record is located in the NCIC inactive file, it can still be queried by law enforcement by using the QPO message key. Clearance of a POF record is restricted to the agency that entered the record. Expired records cannot be cleared.

Cancel Protective Order (XPO): This action will remove the Protective Order File (POF) record from NCIC and VCIN. A cancellation message will immediately retire the POF record. A cancelled Protective Order will not be retained in the NCIC inactive file. POF records that have been expunged or are determined to be inaccurate should be canceled. Supplemental information and images appended to that record will be canceled automatically. Active, expired, and cleared records can be canceled by the agency that entered the record.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

Crime In Virginia

The 2016 Crime in Virginia annual report will be released this summer. The current as well as previous reports may be viewed on the State Police website www.vsp.virginia.gov under "Forms & Publications," "Publications," "Crime in Virginia." This detailed document provides rates and occurrences of crimes committed in towns, cities and counties across the Commonwealth. The report lists criminal offenses by reporting agency, arrests by jurisdiction as well as presenting detailed information on law enforcement officers killed and assaulted (LEOKA) and when bias motivation (hate crime) was associated with an offense.

We appreciate the ongoing effort from all contributing agencies to help ensure their data are as complete and accurate as possible. This is particularly important because these data are the official crime figures for Virginia. They are used by criminal justice personnel, policymakers and the public to better understand the nature and extent of crime issues.

For 2016, statewide violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) increased 10.8 percent compared to the previous year. As a group, property crimes including burglary, larceny and motor vehicle thefts decreased less than one-half of one percent (-.40%) during this period of time. As an individual offense, motor vehicle theft increased 18.2 percent. This is the second year that motor vehicle theft has experienced an increase, reversing a downward trend over the last several years. Overall, drug and narcotic violations increased compared to the previous year (8.7%). Marijuana arrests increased 10.6 percent while arrests for heroin, "crack" cocaine and powder cocaine showed an even greater increase (17.1%, 11.1%, 19.4%, respectively).

Group A arrests. Using the table below, there was an increase in arrests between 2015 and 2016. Adult arrests increased 3.3 percent, while juvenile arrests increased 3.1 percent.

Group B arrests. Between 2015 and 2016 adult arrests decreased 6.3 percent. Juvenile arrests experienced a larger decrease, 11.8 percent for the same period of time.

Group A arrests and Group B arrests. There was a total of 276,144 arrests in 2016 compared to 282,422 arrests in 2015, representing an overall decrease of 2.2 percent.

ARRESTS	2016		2015	
	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Juvenile</u>	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Juvenile</u>
Group A	119,012	11,151	115,221	10,811
Group B	137,512	8,469	146,784	9,606
TOTAL				
(Adult & Juvenile)	276,144		282,422	

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)**Crime In Virginia– continued**

The table below compares reporting years 2010 through 2016 for each Group A offense.

Crime Trends

Group A Offense*	Number 2016	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Murder/Nonnegligent Manslaughter*	480	5.71	4.56	4.05	3.84	3.86	3.77	4.61
Kidnaping/Abduction*	1,532	18.21	17.7	17.4	18.15	18.17	18.22	20.18
Forcible Sex Offenses*	5,529	65.73	60.8	59.44	59.17	62.22	63.04	62.25
Robbery	4,796	57.02	53.19	51.8	55.14	57.77	67.32	70.99
Aggravated Assault*	10,361	123.17	111.15	113.66	110.12	111.75	109.19	120.32
Simple Assault/Intimidation*	88,284	1049.52	1051.57	1061.67	1111.69	1184.68	1229.47	1271.09
Arson	862	10.25	10.57	10.18	11.43	15.26	14.41	15.42
Extortion/Blackmail	315	3.74	2.55	2.17	1.74	1.51	1.4	1.9
Burglary	19,947	237.13	251.32	271.85	318.39	351.33	375.94	378.61
Larceny	127,941	1520.97	1537.99	1578.3	1657.04	1719.87	1784.59	1849.06
Motor Vehicle Theft	9,575	113.83	96.66	90.58	100.7	108.06	118.77	129.91
Counterfeiting/Forgery	7,240	86.07	83.14	76.04	72.72	83	87.37	89.25
Fraud	36,605	435.16	432.97	407.26	364.81	342.03	321.62	307
Embezzlement	2,742	32.6	32.59	35.57	33.38	32.37	35.05	33.75
Stolen Property	1,380	16.41	14.54	15.77	17.03	16.39	17.96	19.41
Damage/Vandalism	57,311	681.32	688.52	723.61	754.54	856.2	912.64	971.05
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	60,990	725.05	669.21	673.57	696.12	676.9	625.57	591.35
Nonforcible Sex Offenses*	137	1.63	1.68	2.27	2.29	2.39	2.61	2.55
Pornography	1,300	15.45	14.61	14.39	12.74	8.72	8.44	7.75
Gambling	36	0.43	0.39	0.64	0.59	0.78	1.93	1.04
Prostitution	982	11.67	13.41	15.53	12.37	12.13	11.73	12.36
Bribery	18	0.21	0.25	0.25	0.29	0.32	0.31	0.4
Weapons Law Violations	10,971	130.42	115.48	106.76	108	110.54	111.92	112.72

*Crime counts are number of victims for offenses against a person and number of offenses for all other offenses.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

Reporting and Accuracy

Reporting agencies are required to submit their crime and arrest data by the fifteenth of the following month that the incident occurred. State Police incidents are automatically added to the IBR database on the first of every month. To be included in the annual report, all year-end data have to be submitted no later than mid-March. Crime data are published in the annual state publication Crime in Virginia and annual federal publication Crime in the United States. If any incidents or arrests have not been submitted or if any unresolved errors are not corrected and resubmitted by the established deadline, the data are not included in these publications. Submission of all incidents is important because what we receive from your agency becomes the official crime statistics for your agency. Under-counts, as well as over-counts, of data could have serious and damaging effects on the accuracy of these crime figures. Because of these factors, we urge you to submit all of your crime data as accurately as possible and on a regular monthly basis.

Ongoing Issues of Concern

We have found some of the following reoccurring errors:

- In the UCR/IBR program, there is no attempted murder/non-negligent manslaughter. Murders and non-negligent manslaughter must be completed to qualify for IBR purposes. If the murder/non-negligent manslaughter was attempted, the offense must be coded as an aggravated assault (13A). If you use the code of 09A (homicide), the offense will be submitted as 'completed' and the incident will be counted an actual homicide.
- Confusion between automatic and semi-automatic firearms continues to occur. An automatic firearm is defined as a firearm that continuously fires as long as the trigger is pressed; an example would be a machine gun, also known as a 'fully automatic' weapon. A semi-automatic firearm fires one round with each individual trigger pull and release. In the most situations firearms listed will **NOT** be an automatic firearm. Therefore agencies must not include the 'A' as a suffix for field 13B. For example, if a semi-automatic firearm was used, the appropriate code is 11; if an automatic rifle was used the code should be 11A. Please note, in the vast number of cases the weapon(s) used will be semi-automatic.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

Ongoing Issues of Concern- continued

- The FBI defines cargo theft as the taking of any cargo in transit from the point of origin to the final destination. To be considered cargo, the items must be part of a commercial shipment and in the supply chain. An example would include freight on a truck being transported from a warehouse to a store for distribution. Additional information can be found on the IBR website under IBR Publications by selecting 'Cargo Theft- One Page Summary'.
- Motor Vehicle Theft must be reported in the jurisdiction in which it occurred. Similarly, the recovery of a motor vehicle as well as any arrest must be reported to the agency that created the original incident. If you recover a motor vehicle that has been stolen in another jurisdiction, the offense is not motor vehicle theft, but possession of stolen property. If you use motor vehicle theft, the same vehicle will be counted twice! If not done correctly, you can see how the number of motor vehicle thefts can quickly be over-

Uniform Statute Conversion Table

The July 2017 Uniform Statute/Conversion Table (Modified) has been uploaded to the IBR website. This table is located under IBR Publications, and includes new state statutes with their associated IBR codes. Agencies are reminded that this table is intended to be used as a tool and depending on the specific circumstances, the IBR code may need to be modified to reflect the actual scenario for a specific incident. State Program staff members are available to review individual case narratives should you have questions about which IBR offense to use. The expanded version of the new UST release can be directly accessed through the Virginia Supreme Court's website:

http://www.courts.state.va.us/courtadmin/aoc/djs/resources/ust/ust_table.pdf

Firearms Transaction Center (FTC)

New FTC Manager

The Firearms Transaction Center has seen the retirement of Mrs. Donna Tate, and now welcomes Mr. Michael S. Matthews (Mike) as the new Program Manager. Mr. Matthews has been with the FTC since September 2007, where he began as a Supervisor in the unit. Although Mike has been the FTC Manager for a short period of time, he has already made a considerable contribution to the firearms program.

We look forward working with him, and we are certain you will too!

FTC

Technological Advances Initiated by New Business Analyst Position

This year also saw the creation of a new position for FTC. Mr. Vikas has joined the FTC team as a Business Analyst, operating as liaison between Information & Communication Technologies Division and the FTC unit. His primary responsibility is providing support to the VCheck program, as updates become increasingly necessary.

Currently, firearms dealers in the Commonwealth must use a hard copy of the SP-65 Virginia Firearms Transaction Record form to capture pertinent information for a firearm sale or transfer. With the help of Mr. Vikas, this form will become an automated form that no longer requires physical printing of copies by VSP. Each dealer will be able to print the forms at their convenience. This update will decrease costs, and streamline the current process.

Sex Offender Registry

Collaborative Efforts in Investigating Sex Offender Registration Violations

On June 1 - 2, 2017, the Virginia Department of State Police and the Virginia Commonwealth's Attorney's Services Council co-hosted a first of its kind training on the Investigation and Prosecution of Sex Offender Registry Violations. The two day training seminar brought together over 25 prosecutors from across Virginia, as well as the Virginia State Troopers from the Sex Offender Investigative Unit (SOIU). Within their specific jurisdiction, this joint training was designed to improve the quality of the investigation and prosecution of individuals who either fail to register, or provide false information to the Virginia Crimes Against Children and Sex Offender Registry (SOR).

Topics discussed in the training included, the history of the Virginia SOR, a detailed review of the applicable Virginia Statutes, the registration of out of state and military offenders, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehension, Registering, and Tracking (SMART), records maintained by the SOR, role of the SOIU, and both prosecution techniques and challenges that are unique to SOR cases. Presenters included a senior prosecutor, attorneys from the State Police, Virginia SOR personnel, and the U.S. Department of Justice SMART Office. The training received positive reviews from both prosecutors and investigators. This specialized collaborative effort will be included in future training.